

alumni years after graduation. In some cases, he also remembered their outstanding bar tabs.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Dale during my many visits to Sal's over the years. No trip to a Johnnies football game was complete without a post-game beer at Sal's. There is some solace in the fact that the next time I am at Sal's, I will likely see his son, Kyle, tending bar just like his dad.

To Dale's wife, Diane, and the rest of the family, we pray that Dale's lasting memory gives you comfort during this difficult time. A great life lived.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HARRY BELAFONTE

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, Harry Belafonte was a lifelong public servant and civil rights advocate who selflessly used the power of his voice to entertain us through songs, as well as to build awareness and bring attention to numerous social and political causes for vulnerable communities across the United States and the world.

He was a hitmaker and changemaker. From New York City to Hollywood, he broke barriers. His efforts helped propel the civil rights movement and created an appetite for justice across the country.

Harry Belafonte was an entertainer, an ambassador for humanity, and an advocate for goodwill across this planet.

An alumnus of George Washington High School in my district, Mr. Belafonte was a Harlem treasure, an ambassador for humanity, and he will never be forgotten.

Today, I honor his life, his legacy, and the contributions he made to the global community.

MAKE OUR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND CLASSROOMS SAFER

(Mr. OGLES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the bill I will introduce today, the TEACH Act, the Teachers Empowered Against Classroom Harm Act. This bill would ensure that those who choose to protect children from armed intruders have the opportunity to do so.

We are all aware of the tragedy that took place at the Covenant School in my district a month ago. These types of tragedies are indicative of the evil that exists in our world. While we will never be able to ban the intentions of evil people, we can allow men and women to equip themselves in order to protect our children and stop bad actors in their tracks.

The TEACH Act would take money from the Education Secretary's slush fund, over \$27.5 million, and use that

money to provide defensive training programs designed to protect schools and our most precious asset, our children.

There are untold numbers of humble, patriotic men and women serving in our schools who would take steps to protect our children. The Teachers Empowered Against Classroom Harm Act, the TEACH Act, would help make our students, our educators, and our classrooms safer.

CELEBRATING AMERICAN LIBRARIES WEEK

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of American Libraries Week.

This is a perfect time to thank our local libraries and the employees who keep them open to the public to ensure access to reading and learning.

While extreme MAGA Republicans are banning books and bashing librarians, House Democrats are protecting and recognizing their public libraries. We are putting people over politics. That is why I am proud to honor my local library, the Houston Public Library.

Mr. Speaker, they have announced that with local support, our library will no longer charge late fees on overdue books or other borrowed items. This is one of the many efforts that they are making to make sure that libraries are more accessible.

In honor of public libraries, I am reintroducing my bill, the More Social Workers in Libraries Act, today. Public libraries are vital community hubs, and this bill will reinforce America's social worker talent pipeline by creating a paid social worker internship in public libraries across the Nation.

Libraries are for learning. They are for seeking resources and finding job opportunities. We need to lift them up and not bash them.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF KEN POTTS

(Mr. CURTIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a profound sense of reverence and humility to honor the legacy of a true American hero, Mr. Ken Potts.

Mr. Potts was one of the last two USS *Arizona* survivors who recently passed away at 102.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Ken Potts answered the call of duty. As a crane operator, Mr. Potts had the responsibility of ferrying supplies to the USS *Arizona*. Upon reaching the harbor, he was confronted with a scene of devastation.

Mr. Potts stood as a beacon of hope. With dauntless courage, he wielded his crane as an instrument of salvation,

plucking survivors from the jaws of peril and guiding them to the sanctuary off Ford Island.

To the Potts family, and especially Doris, Ken's beloved wife, our hearts are with you as you honor his memory today in this esteemed Chamber.

I am profoundly privileged to pay homage to the indomitable spirit of Ken Potts.

ADOPTIVE PARENTS ARE REAL PARENTS

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud adoptee, a son with two loving parents who provided me with all the love and support a child could ever ask for.

Yet, I heard in this Chamber a few days ago someone saying my parents aren't real parents.

Let me be clear: I am their child. They are my parents. For bigoted, closed-minded reasons, certain folks have decided that people who adopt their children are lesser than.

Make no mistake, whether you adopted your child, had biological children, or found your chosen family in some other way, you are a parent.

Because I haven't seen any of my Republican colleagues in this Chamber condemn these disgusting comments, I hope that they don't also agree with it because I won't allow anyone in this Chamber to disrespect my family or yours.

Directly to the people who have opened up their hearts and homes to children ready for their embrace, don't let anyone ever diminish who you are. You are real parents, a parent and nothing less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING NATIONAL PARK WEEK

(Mr. CISCOMANI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Park Week to highlight my bill, the Chiricahua National Park Act.

From the Grand Canyon to the Petrified Forest and the Saguaro National Park, Arizona is lucky to have some of the most stunning parks in the world.

In our own district, Chiricahua National Monument has drawn visitors from around the country and across the globe for almost 100 years.

The Wonderland of Rocks showcases the unique beauty of our region through 12,000 acres of towering geological structures, 25 campsites, and over 17 miles of hiking trails.

Local communities and leaders from both sides of the aisle have advocated for years to give this beloved landmark the national park designation it deserves. It is my honor to renew this long-awaited effort.